

# Group of 10000 Citizens to Support Disaster Area Exchange

## ●From Support to Exchange

2 years has passed since the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Tohoku, and looking toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the 10,000 Person Citizens Disaster Area Exchange Support Group will be formed with the shared goal of “from disaster area support to exchange.”

The 10,000 Person Citizens Disaster Area Exchange Support Group will promote disaster area exchange activities through supporting: the Disaster Area Residents’ Exchange organization, which has been continuing to support cooperation between disaster areas such as Taiwan, Chuetsu, and Sichuan; the Disaster Area Student Exchange Project which focuses on bringing students to Kobe; and “From KOBE” which sponsors exchange between Otsuchi High School, in Iwate Prefecture and Kobe University. At the same time, the Group also aims to participate directly in exchange activities in the disaster area.

## ●White House (Shiroya) Traveling Exhibit Project

The main disaster area exchange activity in 2013 was the traveling of the “White House (*Shiroya*)” from Ishinomaki, Otsuchi, Kobe, and Taiwan. During the holiday week in May with the artists from Taiwan playing the lead role, the White House was built in Ishinomaki (near the Ishinomori Manga Museum, in Nakaze of Ishinomaki City), and artists from Taiwan and Japan (Ishinomaki, Sendai, Tokyo, and Kobe) participated in creating paintings on site for the walls of the White House.

The White House was moved from Ishinomaki to Otsuchi (Oraga Otsuchi Yume Hiroba) in August and from Otsuchi to Kobe (Biennale) in October. In January of next year, the White house will travel to the site of the Paper Dome in Puli, Taiwan, with the support of funds raised 10,000 Person Citizens Support Group. Finally, the names of the people who participated in the traveling project and other supporters will be displayed with the White House in Taiwan.

## ●Looking for Participants for the Residents Group

Moving the White House from Tohoku, to Kobe, and to Taiwan is not the end of this project, but instead is a beginning for continuing “disaster area exchange,” supported by the Citizens Group. In particular, we call for support, for people who can to participate in grassroots activities in the Tohoku disaster area, and for those who can not to join the Citizens Group to support the people who are participating directly.

First, we are calling for 10,000 people, who cannot participate directly in activities in the disaster area, but who can donate funds, help with exchanges, and support the various “Citizens Groups” who are actually going to the local area.

## ●Sponsors

1. Kobe: Eiji Tarumi (Disaster Area Residents Exchange - Representative)
2. Kobe: Kanda Hiroshi (Takatori Community Center- Representative)
3. Kobe: Liku Chyo (The Kobe Chinese Community- President)
4. Kobe: Tamiyo Kondo (Disaster Area Student Exchange -Representative)
5. Kobe: Sho Kawakami (From KOBE Otsuchi Recovery Machizukuri Support Network)
6. Kobe: Osamu Ishii (Kobe Archive Photo Museum)
7. Kobe: Yoshimi Amakawa (Great Hashin-Awaji Earthquake Recovery Residents Machizukuri Support Network, Secretariat)
8. Kobe: Ikuo Kobayashi (TeLL-Net Telling Live Lessons from Disasters Network-Secretary-General)
9. Chuetsu: Fumihiko Inagaki (Chuetsu Organization for Safe and Secure Society Recovery Design Center Director)
10. Taiwan: Liao Chai-Chan (Chief New Homeland Foundation)
11. Taiwan: Shang Yu-Fang (Chief executive office CED)
12. Ishinomaki: Masatoshi Saijo (Ishinomaki-Taiwant Art Project)
13. Ishinomaki: Gota Matsumura (Ishinomaki 2.0 Director)
14. Otsuchi: Toru Hiji (Oraga Otsuchi Yumei Hiroba-Secretary-General)

If you are interested in joining the 10,000 Person Citizens Disaster Area Exchange Support Group, please contact us.

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